

## REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-13 and 15-20 are amended herein. No new matter is added as a result of the claim amendments.

### 102 Rejections

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Tang et al. ("Tang," U.S. Patent No. 6,298,370). The Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 1-21 is not shown or suggested by Tang.

In general, embodiments of the present claimed invention pertain to the sharing of a single hardware resource (e.g., a serial port) by multiple software applications. Applicants understand Tang to describe the sharing of processing requirements between a host processor and a "VSP." Tang describes a VSP as an integrated circuit having a logical wrapper around a digital signal processor core. In other words, a VSP is another processor. Thus, while the present claimed invention pertains to two or more applications sharing a single piece of hardware, Tang conversely pertains to two pieces of hardware sharing the processing of an application. Reference is made to column 16, lines 21-36, for example.

The instant Office Action cites columns 25 and 26 of Tang in particular as teaching the present claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that neither these particular portions of Tang, nor Tang in its entirety, show or suggest a hardware resource, and in particular a serial port, being shared by two or more applications. Applicants understand the cited portions of Tang, and

Tang in general, to only describe the breaking up of an application into "granules" that are then processed using the host processor and the VSP. Columns 25 and 26 of Tang only appear to describe instances in which one granule (e.g., a host granule) depends on another granule (e.g., a VSP granule), and hence processing of the granules needs to be synchronized. Applicants respectfully submit that synchronizing processing between two processors (the host and the VSP) does not show or suggest a same hardware resource being shared by two applications.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Tang does not show or suggest a "method for allowing multiple applications to cooperatively access the same hardware resource, said method comprising: a) registering a callback instruction for a first application that is using said hardware resource; b) invoking said callback instruction to notify said first application of a request from a second application for the same said hardware resource; and c) yielding said hardware resource to said second application provided said first application grants said request," as recited in independent Claim 1 (emphasis added). Claims 2-7 are dependent on Claim 1 and recite additional limitations.

Also, Applicants respectfully submit that Tang does not show or suggest a "method for allowing multiple applications to cooperatively access a same serial port, said method comprising: a) opening said serial port for a first application, wherein said opening comprises registering a callback instruction for said first application; b) receiving a request for the same said serial port from a second application; c) invoking said callback instruction responsive to said request ...; and d) yielding the same said serial port to said second application provided said

response from said first application grants said request and otherwise maintaining said serial port for said first application" as recited in independent Claim 8 (emphasis added). Claims 9-14 are dependent on Claim 8 and recite additional limitations.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Tang does not show or suggest a portable computer system that implements "a method for allowing multiple applications residing on said computer system to cooperatively access the same said serial port, said method comprising: a) opening said serial port for a first application, wherein said opening comprises registering a callback instruction for said first application; b) receiving a request for the same said serial port from a second application; c) invoking said callback instruction responsive to said request ...; and d) yielding said serial port to said second application provided said response from said first application grants said request and otherwise maintaining said serial port for said first application" as recited in independent Claim 15. Claims 16-21 are dependent on Claim 15 and recite additional limitations.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that Tang does not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, and that Claims 1, 8 and 15 are therefore in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Tang also does not show or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21 dependent on Claims 1, 8 and 15, and that Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21 are in condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is traversed.

Conclusions

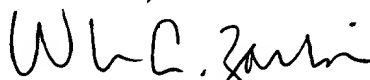
In light of the above remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, the Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-21 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, the Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP



William A. Zarbis  
Reg. No. 46,120

Two North Market Street  
Third Floor  
San Jose, California 95113  
(408) 938-9060

Date: 12/30/03